

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 CU-04

A-01 OPR-02 SY-10 IO-14 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 NEA-11

NIC-01 DRC-01 /206 W

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P 251744Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6625

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0148

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GJ, TD, PFOR, PINT, ELAB, BB

SUBJ: COMMENT ON CCL RATIONALE ON GRENADA

REF: POS 0189

SINCE EMBASSY CONSIDERS CCL RATIONALE AS EXPRESSED BY CRICHLOW (REFTEL) GIVES LOPSIDED AND INCOMPLETE PICTURE OF GRENADA SITUATION, ALTHOUGH HE MAY BELIEVE IT, WE OFFER FOLLOWING COMMENT:

1. OPPOSITION TO GAIRY IS MUCH BROADER THAN NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT (NJM). "COMMITTEE OF 22" COMPRISES IMPRESSIVE CROSS-SECTION OF GRENADA'S IMPORTANT INTEREST GROUPS, INCLUDING MOST MAJOR TRADE UNIONS (E.G. DOCKERS, CLERICAL AND TECHNICAL WORKERS, TEACHERS, ETC.), OPPOSITION GRENADA NATIONAL PARTY, NJM, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SERVICE ASSOCIATION, CHURCHES AND SERVICE CLUBS, I.E. MOST OF GRENADA'S URBAN AND LOWER

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MIDDLE CLASSES AND INTEREST GROUPS WHOSE SUPPORT OR AT LEAST

COOPERATION IS NECESSARY FOR GOG TO GOVERN EFFECTIVELY.

2. WHILE TRADE UNION COUNCIL (TUC) LEADERSHIP INCLUDES PRO-GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, IT CANNOT BE SAID TO BE DOMINATED BY GAIRY SYMPATHIZERS. AS OF LAST YEAR ITS OFFICERS INCLUDE ALBERT ABRAHAMS OF THE TEACHERS' UNION AS PRESIDENT; MARGARET ST. LEWIS OF THE TEACHERS AS VICE PRESIDENT; CURTIS STUART, PRESIDENT OF TECHNICAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION (TAWU), AS GENERAL SECRETARY, SIMEON GREEN, SECRETARY OF TAWU, AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY, AND GEORGE CHECKLEY (UNION UNKNOWN) AS TREASURER.

3. THE COMMITTEE OF 22 IS MUCH MORE THAN A FRONT FOR NJM, AND ITS ACTIONS ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN LARGELY LEGAL (E.G. PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATIONS, WORK STOPPAGES, ETC.,) UNTIL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION EFFECTIVE JAN 7 MADE CLOSING OF BUSINESSES ILLEGAL. SHUT DOWNS ENGINEERED BY SEAMEN AND WATERFRONT WORKERS UNION (SWWU) AND COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WORKERS UNION (CIWU), IN BOTH OF WHICH ERIC PIERRE IS AN OFFICER, MAY POSSIBLY BE FINANCED BY WEALTHY WHITE GRENADIAN KEN MILNE, WHO FLED TO TAMPA FOLLOWING SEVERE BEATING LAST NOVEMBER, BUT ALLEGATION THAT PIERRE IS COMPLETELY UNDER MILNE'S CONTROL IS MORE LIKELY A MISINTERPRETATION OF COMMON INTEREST BOTH HAVE IN OPPOSING GAIRY.

4. WHETHER NJM WAS PLANNING TO OVERTHROW GOG BY VIOLENCE IS DEBATABLE (WE THINK NOT), BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT GAIRY FORCES INITIATED EXCESSES (E.G. NJM BEATINGS NOV 18). GAIRY HELD BACK HIS FORCES (I.E. AGREED TO DISBAND POLICE AIDES) BUT ONLY AFTER HE WAS FORCED TO DO SO BY WIDE-SPREAD POPULAR REACTION (INCLUDING CHURCH GROUPS). NOW ONCE AGAIN GAIRY HAS CALLED POLICE AIDES BACK INTO ACTION AS OF JAN 21, WHEN CLASH OCCURRED AT OTWAY HOUSE RESULTING IN DEATH OF RUPERT BISHOP. IT IS TRUE, HOWEVER, THAT NATURE OF CURRENT CONFLICT IN GRENADA IS MORE A POLITICAL THAN A TRADE UNION ISSUE IN STRICT SENSE. DONOVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRIME MINISTER, POLITICAL STABILITY, LABOR STRIKES, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, POLITICAL LEADERS, PUBLIC AT TITUDES, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BRIDGE00148
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740117/aaaaaoyr.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: POS 0189
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMENT ON CCL RATIONALE ON GRENADA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ELAB, GJ, TD, BB
To: PORT OF SPAIN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005